

CLAIMS

1. A press belt (11; 21; 31; 41; 51; 61; 71; 81) employed for pressurizing a zonal material, endlessly formed by an elastic material with the thickness progressively reduced from a central pressurizing portion (C₁; C₂; C₃; C₄; C₅; C₆; C₇) toward end pressurizing portions (A₁, A₁'; A₂, A₂'; A₃, A₃'; A₄, A₄'; A₅, A₅'; A₆, A₆'; A₇, A₇').

2. The press belt according to claim 1, wherein the thickness is progressively reduced from said central pressurizing portion (C₁; C₂; C₃; C₄; C₅; C₆; C₇) toward said end pressurizing portions (A₁, A₁'; A₂, A₂'; A₃, A₃'; A₄, A₄'; A₅, A₅'; A₆, A₆'; A₇, A₇') by at least one type of technique selected from a group of a crown curve technique, a linear technique, a stepped technique and a trapezoidal technique.

3. The press belt according to claim 1, including a cylindrical endless reinforcing base (12; 22; 32; 42; 52; 62; 72), a first elastic layer (13; 23; 33; 43; 53; 63; 73) located on the outer peripheral surface of said reinforcing base and a second elastic layer (14; 24; 34; 44; 54; 64; 74) located on the inner peripheral surface of said reinforcing base, wherein the thickness of said first elastic layer is progressively reduced from said central pressurizing portion (C₁; C₂; C₃; C₄; C₅; C₆; C₇) toward said end pressurizing portions (A₁, A₁'; A₂, A₂'; A₃, A₃'; A₄, A₄'; A₅, A₅'; A₆, A₆'; A₇, A₇').

4. The press belt according to claim 1, including a cylindrical endless reinforcing base (12; 22; 32; 42; 52; 62; 72), a first elastic layer (13; 23; 33; 43; 53; 63; 73) located on the outer peripheral surface of said reinforcing base and a second elastic layer (14; 24; 34; 44; 54; 64; 74) located on the inner peripheral surface of said reinforcing base, wherein the thickness of said second elastic layer is progressively reduced from said central pressurizing portion (C₁; C₂; C₃; C₄; C₅; C₆; C₇) toward said end pressurizing portions (A₁, A₁'; A₂, A₂'; A₃, A₃'; A₄, A₄'; A₅, A₅'; A₆, A₆'; A₇, A₇').

5. The press belt according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the thickness (C_1C_1' ; C_2C_2' ; C_3C_3' ; C_4C_4' ; C_5C_5' ; C_6C_6' ; C_7C_7') of said central pressurizing portion and the thickness (A_1B_1 , $A_1'B_1'$; A_2B_2 , $A_2'B_2'$; A_3B_3 , $A_3'B_3'$; A_4B_4 , $A_4'B_4'$; A_5B_5 , $A_5'B_5'$; A_6B_6 , $A_6'B_6'$; A_7B_7 , $A_7'B_7'$) of said end pressurizing portions is 2 to 30 % of the thickness of said central pressurizing portion.

6. The press belt according to claim 1, wherein said press belt (11; 21; 31; 41; 51; 61; 71; 81) is a papermaking press belt.

7. The press belt according to claim 1, wherein said press belt (11; 21; 31; 41; 51; 61; 71; 81) is a shoe press belt.

8. A shoe press comprising at least the press belt (11; 21; 31; 41; 51; 61; 71; 81) according to claim 1, a pressure shoe (82) applying pressure to said press belt and pressure regulation means (83) regulating the pressure of said pressure shoe.